

City of Springfield Office of Planning & Economic Development

For Immediate Release

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Liberty Mutual & Performance Food Group named as finalists for Economic Impact Award

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The Massachusetts Alliance for Economic Development (MAED) announced that Liberty Mutual and Performance Food Group have been named as finalists for a *2008 Team Massachusetts Economic Impact Award*.

The awards, now in their fifth year of existence, represent excellence in economic investment, job creation, and community involvement. Liberty Mutual and Performance Food Group represent two of just five companies that were named as finalists in Western Massachusetts. Of the five Western Massachusetts finalists, two will be honored with Economic Impact Awards. The awards are for activity that has taken place since January 1, 2007.

"We're thrilled that MAED has recognized the contributions that Performance Food Group and Liberty Mutual have both made to Springfield," said Mayor Domenic J. Sarno. "Both companies have seen the value in investing in the city, and the city is proud and thankful to both for all of their contributions to making Springfield a great place to live and work."

Performance Food Group made a \$30 million investment in its new 233,000 square foot facility at the Springfield Smith & Wesson Industrial Park, creating over 240 new jobs and was Springfield's largest industrial investment since 1993. The new facility, which opened in October 2007, replaced one on Taylor Street.

Liberty Mutual has leased 55,000 square feet at the STCC Park and expects to hire 300 new employees, with approximately 130 of those positions to be filled by year's end. The Springfield office, which represents a \$6 million investment in improvements from Liberty Mutual, joins similar customer care offices in Phoenix, Tampa, Mishawaka, Ind., and New Castle, Pa.

Performance Food Group, Liberty Mutual, and all of the finalists will meet with judges in September at a reception with Undersecretary of Business Development, Greg Bialecki. The final awards luncheon will be held in Boston on November 25th.